



# CITY OF LODI

## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Contract for Services with Crawford Risk Control Services to evaluate the Fire Station #1 Air Quality

MEETING DATE: June 2, 1993

PREPARED BY: Assistant City Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council approve contracting for services with Crawford Risk Control Services to evaluate the second floor of Fire Station #1.

BACKGROUND: After receiving complaints from firefighters regarding poor air quality in the Fire Department headquarters, staff measured the carbon dioxide level of four areas of the fire station. The downstairs and kitchen had acceptable levels of carbon dioxide, however, the sleeping quarters and the classroom both measured high with readings of 1000 parts per million (ppm). The normal acceptable limit for carbon dioxide is less than 800 ppm. Upon consultation with CalOSHA, it is recommended by staff that an industrial hygienist be hired to determine the overall quality of the air in the fire station.

According to CalOSHA, individuals exposed to bad air quality over a period of time will suffer symptoms as described by the firefighters: stuffy noses, difficulty breathing, scratchy throats, and drowsiness. CalOSHA also recognized that the health effects may be partially attributable to the high level of carbon dioxide which is a result of poor air circulation, but may also be due to the fact that the ventilation system has never been vacuumed or cleaned.

Staff solicited proposals from two companies which clean ventilation systems; EMS Cleaning for \$4,900 and M&M Heating for \$15,640. Because the costs are so diverse, and because the price is so high for an assumed solution to a problem, staff is recommending instead that the City spend \$2,600 for an industrial hygienist. The industrial hygienist can evaluate the system from an unbiased standpoint and determine if in fact the problem is due to poor air circulation, a dirty ventilation system, or if other contaminants are present in the atmosphere.

Two industrial hygiene companies were recommended by CalOSHA: Crawford Risk Control Services and Radian Corporation. Both firms submitted proposals each totalling \$2,600 to evaluate the system. Because of the possible ill effects which firefighters may be suffering due to the air quality, staff contends that it is in the City's best interest to hire an industrial hygienist who can look

APPROVED

THOMAS A. PETERSON  
City Manager



recycled paper

Agenda Title: Contract for Services with Crawford Risk Control Services to  
evaluate the Fire Station #1 Air Quality

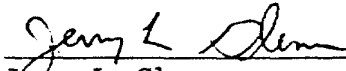
Date: June 2, 1993  
Page Two

at the overall picture and help determine the root of the problem, rather than investing \$4,900 - \$15,640 to clean the ventilation system. Should the industrial hygienist recommend in the evaluation that the system be cleaned, then at least the City will be secure in knowing that the air flow and ventilation is adequate for the number of people and the type of equipment in the building.

Crawford Risk Control Services was previously hired by the City to evaluate the air quality in City Hall. Their report was comprehensive and informative for staff to use as a planning tool for the City Hall renovation and the distribution of employees in work spaces.

FUNDING: Contingency Fund.

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry L. Glenn  
Assistant City Manager

Prepared by: Janet Keeter, Administrative Assistant to the City Manager  
Dennis Callahan, Building and Maintenance Superintendent